



**When we occupy
the churches,
you are
scandalised,
religious bigots!
You who
threatened us
with hell,
we have come to
eat at your table,
at Saint Nizier.**

Protest song penned by
sex workers who
occupied French
churches during an
eight-day 1975 strike.



TAMPEP newsletter marking the international sex workers' rights day: 2nd June 2019

June 2nd of each year commemorates the 1975 occupation of Saint-Nizier Church in Lyon France by more than a hundred sex workers who were protesting police brutality and a systemic failure of authorities to investigate crimes against workers. Sex worker demands during the strike included; an end to police harassment of sex workers, the protection of workplaces and their livelihood, and the scrapping of anti-pimping laws that targeted their partners, colleagues and friends and families. Many more of the approximately 20,000 French sex workers nationwide also struck from work in solidarity.

The brutal suppression of the strike on June 10, 1975, only increased international momentum by sex workers around the world to collectivise for their rights. Ten years after, over a hundred sex workers met in Amsterdam for the first of two World Whore Congresses where they drew up the World Charter for Sex Worker Rights, which called first and foremost for the decriminalisation of prostitution.

Sex Worker Organising

Today, sex workers and their organisations celebrate the 2nd of June each year as **International Sex Workers' Rights Day**. The day is actively celebrated and organized around the world.

TAMPEP joins sex workers and sex worker-led organisations globally to mark this important day for the birth of the sex workers' rights movement and celebrate the efforts of us all in collectively challenging criminalisation, and fighting for the rights of all workers.

National laws and policies play a key role in combatting violence, reducing vulnerability and ensuring universal access to rights and justice for sex workers. The first demand of sex workers globally is the full decriminalization, including depenalization of all forms of sex work.



By decriminalizing sex work, safer working conditions can be ensured, and sex workers can be empowered to fight against violence and demand their human rights.

A sex worker vigil and protest march through Soho, in London, in 2014.

Photo: Guy Corbishley / Alamy Live News

The rights sex workers globally continue to advocate and organize for

- The right to associate and organise;
- The right to be protected by the law;
- The right to be free from violence;
- The right to be free from discrimination;
- The right to privacy, and freedom from arbitrary interference;
- The right to health;
- The right to move and migrate; and
- The right to work and free choice of employment¹

¹ NSWP Consensus Statement on Sex Work, Human Rights, and the Law (2013), available at: <https://www.nswp.org/resource/nswp-consensus-statement-sex-work-human-rights-and-the-law>



Specific Issues Confronting Migrant and Mobile Sex Workers

*"Migrant sex worker' is an umbrella term that, in Europe, can include EU citizens from other member states with the legal right to live and work in any EU country; undocumented migrants without legal permission to stay and work; refugees and asylum seekers; and potentially those who are currently classified as victims of trafficking. They are no monolithic group, and talking about them as such ignores the diversity and complexity of living and working conditions experienced by those who, due to personal choice, limited options, chance opportunity, or coercion, are selling sex outside their country of citizenship."*²

³The increase in international migration in the second half of the last century, primarily from less advantaged areas to more economically robust countries, came as a direct result of the changing global structure of society and increased opportunities for mobility. In addition, wars and civil unrest across many regions of the world have uprooted many peoples from their homes and contributed to hundreds of thousands of migrants and refugees.

Despite the global and European-specific trends of increasing mobility, migrant workers still face extreme disadvantage, discrimination and criminal harassment. Migrant sex workers are portrayed as victims or criminals in discourses that conflate sex work with human

² Open Democracy, 'Beyond Trafficking and Slavery': <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/beyond-trafficking-and-slavery/rights-not-rescue-migrant-sex-workers/>

³ TAMPEP written contribution for the *Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women* for the General Draft Recommendation on Trafficking of Women and Girls in the Context of Global Migration." 18 February 2018 <https://tampep.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/TAMPEP-Position-paper-CEDAW-2019.pdf>

trafficking. Human rights violations of migrant and mobile sex workers are commonplace, often targeted under sex work and migration restrictions and criminalisation.

Yet under the Migrant Workers Convention, sex workers who migrate across borders are recognised as labour migrants, travelling to destination countries where they can earn higher incomes, work in more safe ways and live in countries where human rights standards are relatively upheld compared to their country of origin.

A governmental approach that operates solely within the framework of "illegal immigration" offers no contribution to the welfare of migrant and trafficked people. It has resulted in increased vulnerability for everyone, regardless of how much agency they exercise in crossing borders or in choosing their employment. The inflexibility and harshness of recent immigration policies across Europe have exacerbated the potential for exploitation of migrant sex workers, but failed to reduce either their influx, or their presence.

WOMEN & MIGRATION

The lack of social and economic opportunities in underprivileged countries has remained the primary cause of migration. Since the 1970s there have been significant increases in the number of women who migrate alone in search of new prospects for their own survival and to sustain their families in their countries of origin. This global trend of poverty amongst women has directly affected the **"feminisation of migration"**.

It is high time to recognise that migrant women are an integral part of the labour market, and for many of them, due to the language barrier, lack of professional training or work permits, sex work remains a practical solution to provide for themselves and their families.

MIGRANT SEX WORKERS' NEEDS

In many Western European countries, migrant female sex workers constitute a significant number, in some cases as high as 70%, of all sex workers, but many health and social care services, often through restrictive regulations, are not equipped to respond to this reality.

- Migrant sex workers should have their human and civil rights upheld, to reduce their vulnerability to exploitation, abuse and violence.

- Police, social workers or immigration officials must not be the first port of call when engaging with migrant sex workers. Any

MIGRATION & TRAFFICKING

Under the guise of anti-trafficking efforts, migrant and mobile sex workers are routinely targeted by law enforcement and subsequently arrested and deported. Bitterly ironic however, these raids and heightened criminalisation are often portrayed to the public as effective measures in rescuing victims of trafficking.

According to the UK Campaign **DecrimNow**, *"the deportation of undocumented or insecurely documented migrants, whether trafficked or not, has the effect of producing conditions which lead to trafficking. When undocumented migrants are justifiably fearful of attracting the attention of the state, they are unable to seek recourse for exploitation, and are intensely vulnerable to harm. We do not have to argue about who is and isn't 'really' a trafficking victim in order to make sense of what is wrong here: this treatment is unjust for everyone."*

<https://decrimnow.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/trafficking-briefing.pdf>

Both the European Union and the United Nations have highlighted that the sex industry is one of the areas in which trafficking in human beings occurs. Whether migrants engaged in sex work have been deceived or not, whether they work voluntarily or by force, they face extreme isolation, vulnerability and lack of access to rights and justice. Such social and political exclusion is one of the primary causes for the expansion of trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, and for the impunity of traffickers.

service intended for their welfare should be independent of state and immigration authorities, and designed with active participation of sex workers.

■ It is essential that services for sex workers see them as whole human beings and go beyond focusing on them solely as vectors of sexually transmitted infections.

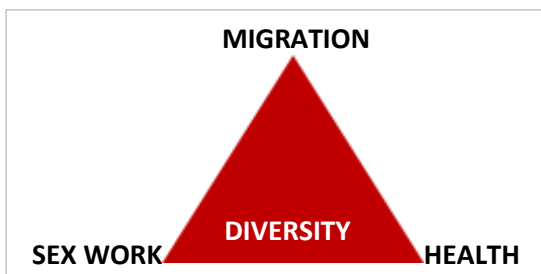
Responding holistically to the needs of migrant sex workers is the most effective instrument against their exploitation and therefore against trafficking.

One of the EU's five priorities in relation to trafficking is stepping up the prevention of trafficking in human beings. Most policy makers have limited their interpretation of prevention as ending demand for services and goods by victims of trafficking. It is generally believed that ending demand for sexual services will end trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. However, no measures are taken to discourage demand for services and goods by victims of trafficking in fishing and seafaring, the construction industry, agriculture, food processing, domestic labour, and care work. Nor have there been any attempts to use decriminalisation of sex work as a strategy to tackle trafficking and provide labour rights and protections to those selling sex in Europe.

TAMPEP News

TAMPEP was founded in 1993 in response to the needs of migrant sex workers across Europe. As a sex worker-led network, it unites sex worker groups and allies in building stronger partnerships to advocate for the rights of migrant and mobile sex workers in Europe.

Migrant sex workers face multiple forms of discrimination and exclusion due to the convergence of repressive measures against migration, health, and sex work. This situation is compounded for those belonging to marginalised minority groups across all categories.



TAMPEP has a tripartite approach to human rights, advocacy and networking: **the right to work, the right to health, and the right to move freely**, with the diversity of migrant and mobile sex workers as a foundational and crosscutting value.

To mark this **International Sex Workers' Rights Day**, TAMPEP has prepared this newsletter to highlight the situation of migrant and mobile sex workers across

Europe. Some key advocacy efforts led by TAMPEP are also shown alongside the efforts of TAMPEP members.

Migrant sex workers don't ask for more. Migrant sex workers demand equal rights.

TAMPEP joined sex workers at the 22nd International AIDS Conference, 2018

In July 2018, more than 120 sex workers from more than 25 countries attended the 22nd International AIDS Conference (IAC 2018) in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The bi-annual IAC are the largest global gathering of HIV academics, implementers, policy makers, people living with HIV and those most affected by HIV, including sex workers.



TAMPEP represented the views of migrant and mobile sex workers on various platforms alongside our partners to ensure rights to work, health and to move freely were respected and upheld.

The *Global Network of Sex Work Projects* (NSWP) produced a helpful report and following recommendations available at: <https://www.nswp.org/resource/report-sex-workers-the-22nd-international-aids-conference>

TAMPEP presents a position paper and an oral intervention at the CEDAW meeting

The half-day of general discussion was organized by OHCHR (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) in Geneva, in February 2019, for CEDAW (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women)

More details and access to written submissions available here:

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CEDAW/Pages/DiscussionOnTrafficking.aspx>

The purpose of the half-day of general discussion was to prepare the elaboration by the *Committee of a General Recommendation on Trafficking in Women and Girls* in the context of global migration. The aim of the general recommendation is to provide guidance to States parties to the Convention on the measures they should adopt to ensure full compliance with their obligations to respect, protect and fulfil women's human rights in the context of trafficking and global migration.

TAMPEP have submitted a position paper as response to the Concept Note prepared for CEDAW on its elaboration of a *General Recommendation on Trafficking in Women and Girls in the Context of Global Migration*.

[wrihttps://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CEDAW/Pages/GRTrafficking.aspx](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CEDAW/Pages/GRTrafficking.aspx)

TAMPEP considers migrant sex workers to be agents of social change, and in doing so recognises their cultural identity and their right to contribute to the development of effective policies and services. Read our position paper and oral intervention document in our webpage:

<https://tampep.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/TAMPEP-Position-paper-CEDAW-2019.pdf>
<https://tampep.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/TAMPEP-Oral-Intervention-FINAL.pdf>

TAMPEP represented the views and rights of migrant and mobile sex workers through the reading of an oral intervention, which highlighted:

■ **Victims of trafficking must not be further exploited as witnesses.** States should acknowledge their responsibility to assist and protect victims of trafficking – regardless of their ability or willingness to co-operate or testify in court proceedings. States' obligation for assistance to women who have been trafficked should extend to providing realistic opportunities for a safe environment, instead of being deported after they testify against their traffickers.

■ Governments should address women's poverty, education for girls and **the protection of women's rights** as a global anti-trafficking strategy.

■ **Consider sex work and forced labour as two separate phenomena.** Anti-trafficking laws must not be used to target sex workers - in particular migrant sex workers - and curtail their rights.

■ **Acknowledge the global reality of migration, including for sex work.** Abolish laws and policies that criminalise migration and sex work, and provide the possibility for migrant sex workers to obtain residence and work permits in order to increase their independence, and to prevent exploitation.

■ **Encourage the respect and protection of migrant sex workers' human rights, including their right:**

- to equal protection under the law
- to freedom of movement and residence
- to work
- to free choice of employment
- to just and favourable working conditions
- to the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health

■ **Encourage a clear separation between immigration enforcement and the provision of essential services.** Putting the enforcement of immigration rules ahead of people's fundamental rights prevents migrant sex workers without regular status from accessing services, reporting crimes and receiving justice.

■ **State bodies** should recognise restrictive immigration legislation, and anti-prostitution policies as contributing factors to human trafficking and related abuses.

5th European Migration Forum

From global to local governance of migration: the role of local authorities and civil society in managing migration and ensuring safe and regular pathways to the EU

The **5th Migration Forum Meeting** was organised in Brussels, by the European Commission, on April 3rd and 4th. The European Migration Forum is a platform for dialogue between civil society and European institutions on issues related to migration, asylum and integration of non-EU migrants. This 5th edition of the Forum focused on safe and regular migration, for both humanitarian and other reasons, including a reflection on how to implement the **Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees** and on the role that the civil society organisations

and other local actors can play in this interaction between the international and the local dimension. TAMPEP was accepted to attend and made key recommendations in the migration platform on migrant sex workers and denounced any form of conflation of sex work and trafficking.

TAMPEP joined CIJ, EAPN, ENAR, ICRSE, PICUM & TGEU in Statement

“In our EU, voices from the margins are heard and celebrated”

TAMPEP was part of the production of the joint statement in the run up of the EU elections in April 2019, as part of a political campaigning and advocacy effort to ensure the voices of marginalised communities were heard both in voting and by elected officials. The statement was shared widely on social media channels and platforms encouraging both MEPs and the general public to stand in solidarity with our struggles at the margins.



“We are the poor, the refugees, the migrants, the sex workers, the disabled, the homeless, the undocumented and the detained. We are womxn, LGBTQ+, trans, intersex and feminists. We are Roma, Muslims, Jews, Blacks, Arabs, Asian, Indigenous and other racialised persons and groups. From the multiplicity of our lived realities, we raise our joint voices to formulate our dreams and hopes for Europe.

We oppose the continued design of the European Union (EU) as a means to increase the wealth and power of a few. We want an EU **for and by all of us**; an EU that strives to guarantee our human and communities' rights to **dignity, respect and freedom**.

In today's Europe, those pushed to the margins are the targets of (racial) profiling, repression and criminalisation. Essentially, we are punished for existing in a world that is hostile towards us. Criminalisation makes our exclusion, marginalisation and isolation worse. We demand an EU that **shields us** from oppression and violations of our human right to freedom and dignity. We demand an EU that ends the criminalisation and stigmatisation of marginalised individuals and groups, as well as migration enforcement policies which do not comply with the **highest human rights standards**.

In the EU, home to the world's richest economies, communities and individuals are made to compete for limited means. Scarcity is artificially sustained by inequitable allocations of wealth and resources. We reject the neo-liberal rationale of austerity, privatisation and the erosion of social and labour rights. It is time for the elimination of structural inequality and institutionalised oppression. That is why we insist upon **intersectional policies, laws and institutions**. We demand an EU where every policy, institution and law puts the **wellbeing, dignity and respect of all** people before profits, and prevents the marginalisation of the most vulnerable groups.

The European way of life has a disproportionate impact on the world's climate and biodiversity. The aggressive export of neo-liberal and neo-colonial free trade policies, and extractive capitalism, is hurting and destroying people's lives and communities around the world. We urge the EU to replace its politics of greed and growth at all cost, with the commitment towards **decolonization, international solidarity and reparative justice**.

Human rights activists, journalists and critical thinkers in Europe are under an ever increasing threat of repression and suppression. Human rights activists are portrayed as a threat to the freedoms and the privileges of dominant groups. We insist upon an EU wherein the exercise of the freedom of speech, assembly and political action of the **most marginalised and vulnerable communities are effectively and unconditionally protected**. Our insights and perspective should inform policies and laws; and our experiences and needs should be central to EU policy- and law-making.

In our EU, voices from the margins are heard and celebrated. “

Signatories

CIJ | Centre for Intersectional Justice

EAPN | European Anti-Poverty Network

ENAR | European Network against Racism

ICRSE | International Committee for the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe

PICUM | Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants

TAMPEP | European Network for the Promotion of Rights and Health among Migrant Sex Workers

TGEU | Transgender Europe

ITALIANO

"Nella nostra Europa, le voci che provengono dai margini, sono ascoltate e celebrate"

Questo è un documento firmato da varie organizzazioni tra cui il network europeo antirazzista, quello contro la povertà, due organizzazioni per i diritti dei/delle sex workers, quello internazionale per i migranti, un network europeo di/per i diritti de* transgender. La traduzione in lingua italiana è di Maura, del Gruppo Abbatto i Muri.

“Noi siamo le voci che vengono dai margini, Noi siamo i poveri, i rifugiati, i migranti, i sex worker, i disabili, i senzatetto, i senza-documenti, ed i detenuti. Noi siamo “womxn”, LGBA+, trans, intersex, e femministi. Noi siamo Roma, Mussulmani, Ebrei, Neri, Arabi, Asiatici, Indigeni e tutti gli altri gruppi e persone che subiscono razzializzazione. Dalla molteplicità delle nostre realtà vissute, vogliamo innalzare le nostre voci assieme, per esprimere i nostri sogni e le nostre speranze per l'Europa. Ci opponiamo ai continui progetti dell'unione europea mirati ad aumentare la ricchezza ed il potere dei pochi. Noi vogliamo un Europa per e da tutti; un Europa che si sforza per garantire i nostri diritti per avere dignità, il rispetto e la libertà, come umani e comunità.

Nell'odierna Europa, coloro che sono riversati ai margini, sono gli obbiettivi della reclusione (razziale), della repressione e della criminalizzazione. Essenzialmente siamo puniti per il solo fatto d'esistere in un mondo che ci è ostile. L'essere criminalizzati comporta l'esclusione, l'essere emarginati, e ancora peggio il vivere isolati. Noi chiediamo un Europa che ci difenda dall'oppressione e dalle violazioni dei nostri diritti umani alla dignità e alla libertà. Noi chiediamo un Europa che ponga fine alla criminalizzazione e alla stigmatizzazione delle

comunità e dei gruppi emarginati, così come le politiche applicate all'immigrazione che non rispettano gli alti livelli di tutela dell'umano.

In Europa, che è casa della più fiorente economia mondiale, le comunità e gli individui devono competere con mezzi limitati. La povertà è artificialmente sostenuta da assegnazioni ingiuste di poteri e ricchezze. Noi rifiutiamo la logica neoliberale dell'austerità, della privatizzazione e dell'erosione dei diritti sociali e del lavoro. E' il momento di eliminare le disuguaglianze strutturali e l'oppressione istituzionalizzata. Questo è il motivo per cui insistiamo sulle politiche intersezionali, sulle leggi e sulle istituzioni. Noi chiediamo un Europa dove ogni politica, ogni istituzione ed ogni legge puntino al benessere, alla dignità ed al rispetto di ogni persona, che viene prima dei profitti, e che prevenga la marginalizzazione dei più deboli.

Il modo di vivere europeo ha avuto uno sproporzionato impatto sul clima e sulla biodiversità ambientale del mondo. Le aggressive politiche di libero scambio di esportazione neoliberale e neocoloniale, ed il capitalismo, stanno distruggendo le vite delle persone e delle comunità di tutto il mondo. Sollecitiamo l'Europa a rimpiazzare queste politiche avidi e di crescita-a-tutti-i-costi, con un impegno verso la decolonizzazione, la solidarietà internazionale e la giustizia riparativa.

Gli attivisti per i diritti umani, i giornalisti ed pensatori critici, in Europa si ritrovano in un clima d'oppressione e di repressione. Gli attivisti per i diritti umani sono rappresentati come una minaccia per le libertà e i privilegi dei gruppi dominanti. Insistiamo su un'Europa in cui l'esercizio della libertà di parola, riunione e azione politica delle comunità più emarginate e vulnerabili sia efficace e incondizionatamente protetto. I nostri consigli e le nostre prospettive dovrebbero influenzare politiche e leggi; e le nostre esperienze e necessità dovrebbero essere al centro delle politiche e delle legislazioni dell'UE.

Nella nostra Europa, le voci che provengono dai margini, sono ascoltate e celebrate. “

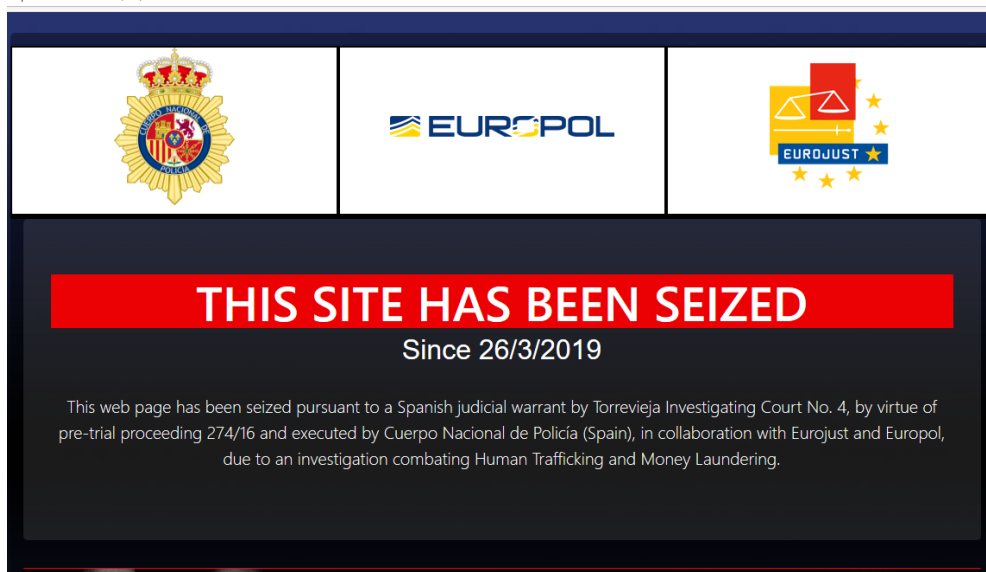
TAMPEP Member News

FINLAND

Sex worker advertising site shut down | Creeping SESTA/FOSTA?

Most sex workers working in Finland advertise online: on different escort pages and dating services/apps or/and on social media. Street sex work is very marginal. The situation changed somewhat this spring as two large and popular sites – sexwork.net and happyescorts.com – were closed and a total of about 1000 escort ads disappeared with them, but there seems to be no rise in street sex work.

The closing of the sites has been especially difficult for the migrant workers. Many have found it difficult to find new sites to advertise, and clients don't know where to look for non-Finnish service providers. For Finnish speaking people it is relatively easy to discretely sell & buy sexual services on Finnish dating sites that in fact forbid commercial ads, but of course advertising with euphemisms can cause difficulties in negotiating terms and boundaries. We consider this situation treacherous.



There are unusually many ads of escorts in Finland around the internet at the moment, as many find it necessary to advertise simultaneously on several different pages. It remains to be seen if any single site reaches the popularity of sexwork.net, but it seems unlikely.

The closing of sexwork.net also made a long history of client feedback chains disappear over night. This means that many sex workers had to start building their reputation from zero again.

There was also a closed discussion forum for sex workers at sexwork.net. For many the forum was the only way to communicate with colleagues and find peer support and for example information about possibly dangerous clients. The discussion forum was mainly used by Finnish speaking sex workers though.

FTS Finland network reacted to the closing of sexwork.net by opening a new closed forum for collegial conversation. At the moment we are trying to reach more migrant workers and build more international and open conversation among all sex workers from different ethnic groups in Finland.

SPAIN

The situation of migrant sex workers

In the social, legal and economic context of the Spanish State and that of Catalonia, the rights of migrant sex workers are, undoubtedly, violated every day.

On the one hand, there is no labour regulation regarding the rights of sex workers, but various local and regional regulations that pursue and criminalize the practice of prostitution have been extended. On the other hand, as in other countries of the European Union, legislation on foreigners is racist and classist, prioritizing the defence of borders rather than the human rights of individuals. In addition, public policies on human trafficking are often used as another tool for the persecution of migrants who practice prostitution.

In this context, as in other economic activities, migrants in the sex industry occupy positions with worse working conditions and are infinitely more exposed to institutional violence.

The Spanish State is one of the European states with the highest levels of precariousness in the labour market, which encourages labour exploitation and becomes the perfect breeding ground for all kinds of abuses in unregulated activities and/or of people without a regular administrative situation. In addition, stigma, which conditions the views on the decision-

making capacity of migrants, belittles strategies for empowering those in sex work, within a capitalist and patriarchal framework.

All this determines the effective exercise of fundamental rights. Specifically, the access to public health, housing or simply the right to a life without violence.



We must also point out that, in addition to the violations of rights that occur in our country, we are also witnessing outrageous situations, such as, for example, other countries of the European Union, with prohibitionist and abolitionist laws, processing expulsions with prohibitions on the entry into Schengen territory of migrant sex workers with a residence status in Spain. This, in addition to violating their most basic rights, involves the risk of non-renewal of their residence permits in Spain and therefore the rupture of their life project, as well as of their emotional and family ties.



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ESPAÑOL

La situación de trabajadoras del sexo migrantes en España

Sin lugar a dudas, los derechos de las personas migrantes trabajadoras del sexo se ven vulnerados cada día en el contexto social, jurídico y económico del Estado español y de Catalunya.

Por una parte, no existe una regulación laboral de los derechos de las personas trabajadoras del sexo, pero en cambio se han extendido diversas normativas locales y regionales que persiguen y criminalizan el ejercicio de la prostitución. Por otra parte, al igual que en otros países de la Unión Europea, las legislaciones sobre extranjería son racistas y clasistas priorizando la defensa de las fronteras por encima de los Derechos Humanos de las personas. A esto hay que sumarle que las políticas públicas sobre trata de seres humanos suelen ser una herramienta más para la persecución de las personas migrantes que ejercen prostitución.

En este contexto, como en otras actividades económicas, las personas migrantes ocupan puestos con peores condiciones laborales en la industria del sexo y están infinitamente más expuestas a sufrir violencia institucional. El Estado español es uno de los estados europeos

con mayores índices de precarización laboral lo que fomenta la explotación laboral -en trabajos reconocidos como tales- y se convierte en el caldo de cultivo perfecto para que se produzcan todo tipo de abusos en actividades no reguladas y/o con personas sin una situación administrativa regular. Además, el estigma –que condiciona la mirada sobre la capacidad de decisión de las personas migrantes- menosprecia las estrategias de empoderamiento del trabajo sexual en un marco capitalista y patriarcal.

Todo esto determina el ejercicio efectivo a derechos fundamentales. En concreto el acceso a la salud pública, a la vivienda o simplemente el derecho a una vida sin violencia.

También debemos apuntar que, además de las vulneraciones de derechos que se dan en nuestro país, también asistimos a situaciones rocambolescas, como por ejemplo que otros países de la Unión Europea (prohibicionistas y abolicionistas) tramiten expulsiones con prohibiciones de entrada al territorio Schengen a mujeres trabajadoras sexuales migrantes con residencia en el Estado español. Esto, además de vulnerar sus derechos más elementales, supone el riesgo de la no renovación de permisos de residencia y por lo tanto la ruptura de su proyecto vital y de sus vínculos afectivos y familiares.



AUSTRIA

News from Vienna, by LEFÖ

The situation now in Austria is that there have been more and more recent expulsions of EU citizens in recent months due to the lack of a registration certificate. By law, nothing has changed, but it has so far been little controlled and

hardly expulsions were executed. The current political situation has aggravated this. This brings great insecurity among migrant sex workers from EU countries. At the same time, the working situation for sex workers on the street in Vienna has become even more difficult due to many controls by the executive, coupled with the issue of administrative penalties.

■ **New Project** - In the period from December 2017 to November 2019, LEFÖ implements, together with NGOs in four European countries (Italy, Spain, Austria and Greece), the international project "**TransR - Transsexual sex workers' rights are human rights**" (funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Program). This EU project recognizes the needs of the multi-discriminated group of transgender sex workers, raises awareness of the specific situation of transgender people in sex work, and challenges their stigmatization and marginalization. By training, strengthening and integrating transgender sex workers as peer educators, empowerment should be strengthened.

■ **Advocacy** - In cooperation with other NGOs, activists and self-organizations of sex workers – LEFÖ advocates on a socio-political level against discrimination and stigmatization



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and for an improvement of the situations of sex workers: e.g. joint press releases, events, statement on the situation of sex workers on the streets, etc.

■ **2nd June 2019** - On the occasion of the international Whores' Day, two events will be organised by LEFÖ in June 2019 in Vienna. They will take place in cooperation with various partner organizations and supporters.

June, 4th, in Vienna: the street event **Only Rights Can Stop the Wrongs**, with live music acts, speeches and performances. <https://www.facebook.com/events/2321286871227637/>

4 June, in Vienna - Organised by the Green Women, an FB event with LEFÖ as co-organiser*: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1033291566875459/>

June, 5th, in Vienna: the film **CROSSINGS - Stories of migrant sex workers** will be shown, in addition a panel discussion with representatives of the TAMPEP Steering Committee.

Other events in Austria

SALZBURG, March 16th - Workshop about the characteristics of sex work policies in Austria. University of Salzburg, Conference: Woman & Sex

INNSBRUCK, March 20th - Lecture about sex work activism and own experiences in this field. IBUS, AEP/Arbeitskreis Emanzipation und Partnerschaft (Working Group Emancipation and Partnership)

VIENNA, March 29th - Panel discussion about feminism and sex work policies in Austria within a European context. University of Vienna, Fem*Congress

DEUTSCH

Nachrichten aus Wien, von LEFÖ

Die aktuelle Situation in Österreich ist, dass es in den letzten Monaten immer öfter zu Ausweisungen von EU-Bürger*innen wegen fehlender Anmeldebescheinigung gibt. Gesetzlich hat sich dabei nichts verändert, aber es wurde bisher wenig kontrolliert und es wurden kaum Ausweisungen exekutiert. Die aktuelle politische Situation hat dies verschärft. Dies bringt große Verunsicherung unter den migrantischen Sexarbeiter*innen aus EU-Staaten. Gleichzeitig ist die Situation am Straßenstrich in Wien durch viele Kontrollen seitens der Exekutive, gekoppelt mit Aushändigen von Verwaltungsstrafen, noch schwieriger geworden.

■ **Neues Projekt** - Im Zeitraum von Dezember 2017 bis November 2019 setzt LEFÖ das internationale Projekt „**TransR – Trans sex workers' rights are human rights**“ um (finanziert durch das europäische Programm Rechte, Gleichstellung und Bürgerschaft). Im Rahmen dieses EU-Projekts werden die Bedürfnisse der mehrfach diskriminierten Gruppe von Transgender-Sexarbeiter*innen erkannt, Bewusstsein für die spezifische Situation von Transgender Personen in der Sexarbeit vermittelt und gegen deren Stigmatisierung und Marginalisierung aufgetreten. Durch Ausbildung, Stärkung und Einbindung von Transgender Sexarbeiter*innen als peer educators soll Empowerment gestärkt werden.

■ **Lobby für Sexarbeiter*innen** - LEFÖ ist, in Vernetzung mit anderen NGOs, Beratungsstellen und Selbstvertretungen von Sexarbeiter*innen und Aktivist*innen, auch auf gesellschafts-politischer Ebene (gemeinsame Presseaussendungen, Austausch,

Veranstaltungen, Stellungnahme zur Situation am Straßenstrich, etc.) gegen Diskriminierung und Stigmatisierung und für eine Verbesserung der Situation von Sexarbeiter*innen aktiv.

■ **2. Juni 2019** - Zwei Veranstaltungen werden im Juni 2019, anlässlich des **Internationalen Hurentages**, von LEFÖ in Kooperation mit verschiedenen Partnerorganisationen in Wien umgesetzt.

4. Juni, in Wien - die Straßen-Aktion „**Only Rights can stop the Wrongs**“, mit Live-Musik-Acts, Reden und Performances. <https://www.facebook.com/events/2321286871227637/>

4. Juni, in Wien - Von den Grünen Frauen organisiert, eine FB Veranstaltung mit LEFÖ als Mitveranstalter*innen: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1033291566875459/>

5. Juni, in Wien - Der Film „**CROSSINGS | Stories of migrant sex workers**“ wird gezeigt, dazu eine Podiumsdiskussion mit Vertreterinnen des TAMPEP's Vorstand.

UK

Migrant sex workers in the United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom the sale of sex and purchase is legal, however the activities surrounding it are greatly restricted. In the territory of Northern Ireland however, the purchase of sexual services are criminalised (The Nordic Model).

In the UK (outside of NI) kerb crawling, public solicitation, third party involvement and brothel

keeping are amongst the offences related to prostitution. While prostitution itself is in law legal, in practice the criminalisation and stigma of the activities surrounding it impacts migrant sex workers in a multitude of ways. Although only 6% of migrant sex workers are reported to be trafficked against their will⁴ raids of brothels and strip clubs are common on the grounds of “welfare checks”.

Due to the laws surrounding brothel keeping being primarily targeted for third parties, migrant sex workers are usually charged with either public solicitation or immigration related offences. While these welfare checks claim to be in response of human trafficking, many who have been witness to such welfare checks report that they are merely



⁴ Mai, N. (2011). Migrant Workers in the UK Sex Industry: ESRC Full Research Report, PDF Link: <https://www.researchcatalogue.esrc.ac.uk/grants/RES-062-23-0137/outputs/read/969bd499-4954-41ff-8d08-391e1a6c932b>

immigration raids. These raids primarily target sex workers from Romania, Poland and other European Union countries who have the rights to live and work in the UK.

While the majority of these workers attest that they are exercising their EU treaty rights by being self-employed, the UK Home office claim that sex work is not legitimate work therefore claim they are not maintaining their treaty rights. Due to this, Operation Nexus, an effort started by the UK Home Office has been deporting migrant sex workers on the grounds of “they are causing ‘high harm’ to themselves and others”⁵.

A dossier compiled by the campaign group English Collective of Prostitutes (ECP)⁶ includes examples of women being targeted by police for arrest and deportation despite having the right to remain in Britain, and police dismissing reports of violence against women. Evidence is also being compiled that highlights increased attacks on migrant workers in the UK since the Brexit Vote.



Sideline No Longer - Sex Workers Led the Women's Strike

Photo Credit:
Nancy Hurman

Women's Strike, Available News Story:

<https://novaramedia.com/2019/03/13/sideline-no-longer-sex-workers-led-the-womens-strike/>

GERMANY

Art and literature for sex workers' rights

The Prostitutes' Protection Law - the ProstSchG - that came into force in July 2017, assumes that sex workers are victims and need protection. As a result, their rights have become limited and replaced by control and obligations: mandatory health counselling, mandatory registration and condom usage. Registration is only possible if one is legally allowed to work in Germany, which reflects directly on migrant sex workers, who are about 80% of the total.

⁵ Thanks to TAMPEP Steering Committee Member Amina Du Jean for overview of situation for migrant sex workers in the UK.

⁶ Reports <http://prostitutescollective.net/bulletins/>

Brothel owners may only allow registered sex workers to work in their venues.

Consequences for migrant sex workers are as predicted: they are increasingly isolated, deny contact during outreach activities and fear to attend health care services. In other words: the Law forces them to go underground.

In order to sensitize and inform the general public regarding the new Law, sex work itself, and sex workers' rights, sex workers' organisations and allies have come up with campaigns and events.



■ **Art project Bar/Code/Move** - As part of the campaign '**Sex work is work. Respect!**', Strich/Code/Move starts in July in Berlin (22 to 27 July). The campaign is coordinated by Stephanie Klee, sex worker and activist. In September the art project will be presented in Hannover (23 to 28 September) and next year in Hamburg, Bochum and Dresden. It is a project that involves five Love-Mobiles, vans where sex workers offer their services along roads, which will be placed, for one week, on an important and busy square of the city.

Each of the five Love-Mobiles will present one topic:

1. Sex workers will show different tools they work with, talk about the ProstSchG and their work
2. Campaigns on sex workers' rights
3. Sex workers will answer questions of the public
4. Place for performances
5. NGOs and allies will talk about the local policies, the living and working conditions of sex workers in the city.

<https://strich-code-move.art/>
www.sexarbeit-ist-arbeit.de

■ **Undine de Rivière: My Hore's Manifest/Inside Sex-Business** – Undine de Rivière, sex worker, activist and press spokesperson of the BESD, the Professional Association for Erotic and Sexual Service Providers, launched a book in 2018. She started organising readings and discussions around Germany, talking about her experience in sex work, her advocacy activities and the consequences of the new Law. The epilogue is about sex work and migration and was written by Veronica Munk, member of the Advisory Group of TAMPEP. In May, the book was presented in Frankfurt (02.05) and Hamburg (22.05), under the title '**Ask a Sex Worker**'. The event is supported by local organisations and in Hamburg by the union Verdi as well.

<https://bizarrlady-undine-hamburg.de>
<http://berufsverband-sexarbeit.de>



ITALY

An important victory at the court against the municipal ordinance on sex work

In Italy, since 2008, three interior ministers have issued decrees on “public order and security”. The latest one that was issued is the so-called “Salvini decree” of 2018. Salvini is the current populist and right-wing Minister of Interior.

As a consequence of this decree, mayors can apply a particular regulation or ordinance against any aspect that "degrades" the city and "disturbs" public order.

On the basis of these by-laws, street sex workers can be sanctioned and sent away from public areas. Cities that issue these anti-prostitution regulations also target the homeless, beggars, etc. and are on the rise. This “public order” approach sacrifices not only the freedom and dignity of sex workers and their customers, but also the freedom of all citizens by compressing them through the special powers conferred to mayors by the law. As a matter of fact, given that street sex workers (women, trans and men) are mostly migrants, they are particularly affected by these measures. Fines up to 500 euros, unfortunately, render the repression of sex work an attractive means for municipalities to collect money easily. Clients are forced to pay fines immediately for fear of having the fines delivered at their homes.

It is however possible, in some cases, to move objections against these ordinances in court.

The radical organisation, "Certi Diritti" (Certain Rights) and the Comitato per i Diritti Civili delle Prostitute (Committee for the Civil Rights of Prostitutes - CDCP) recently made an appeal which was successful with a favourable sentence that was issued in March 2019. The umpteenth anti-prostitution order, issued by the mayor of the Municipality of Tivoli, was annulled by the Regional Administrative Court of Lazio (TAR) as the arguments that were submitted against the order were strong enough for its annulment.

This sets an important legal precedent that will enable us to stop other mayors from abusing their special powers. We are ready to take this legal precedent to other courts in other cities.

The Tivoli ordinance, which referred to concepts such as "good morality" and "public decency" forbade anyone, on the one hand, to assume attitudes or clothing such as to manifest "the intention to entice or engage in the activity of prostitution" and on the other hand, to contact, even orally, or request services from persons involved in prostitution, setting a fine of 500 euros in the event of violation.

The judges of the Lazio Regional Administrative Court annulled the order and ordered the Municipality of Tivoli to pay the costs for the appeal for varied reasons.

The judges retained the surmises of the recurrent organizations that appealed against the order to be valid and justified as it affects the rights and freedom of every individual person. In addition, sanctions that are established in fixed and generalized measures can also have an impact on those who are victims of the criminal chain of trafficking and exploitation and that could be on the street.

Un'importante vittoria in tribunale contro l'ordinanza comunale sul lavoro sessuale

In Italia dal 2008 sono stati tre i ministri dell'Interno che hanno promulgato decreti per maggior ordine e sicurezza, l'ultimo è il decreto Salvini del 2018.

In conseguenza la legge dà potere al sindaco delle città di applicare un particolare regolamento o una ordinanza contro ogni aspetto che "degrada" la città e "disturba" l'ordine pubblico.

Sulla base di queste ordinanze le persone che si prostituiscono in strada possono essere sanzionate e allontanate. Sono sempre più frequenti le città che emettono questi regolamenti anti prostituzione, ma anche anti vagabondi, mendicanti ecc. Un approccio securitario che sacrifica non solo la libertà e la dignità delle persone che si prostituiscono e della loro clientela, ma anche le libertà di tutti i cittadini comprimendole attraverso i poteri speciali conferiti dalla legge. Poiché attualmente nel sex work in strada lavorano in prevalenza donne, trans e uomini migranti, essi sono particolarmente colpiti da queste misure. Le multe previste fino a 500 euro purtroppo rendono economicamente interessante per la polizia comunale la attività di repressione del fenomeno sex work per raccogliere soldi, che vengono pagati facilmente dai clienti delle sex worker per paura di vederle recapitare a casa.

Alcune volte si può fare opposizione presso un Tribunale contro queste ordinanze.

L'Associazione Radicale Certi Diritti e il Comitato per i diritti civili delle prostitute ha recentemente fatto un ricorso con successo, a Marzo 2019 abbiamo avuto una sentenza favorevole. "L'ennesima ordinanza antiprostituzione, emanata dal sindaco del Comune di Tivoli, non ha retto alle argomentazioni che abbiamo opposto ed è stata annullata dal TAR (tribunale amministrativo regionale) del Lazio." E' un precedente importante di cui faremo tesoro in tutte le sedi future per scongiurare che altri sindaci abusino dei loro poteri speciali, saremo pronti a portare questo precedente in altri Tribunali per altre città.

L'ordinanza rifacendosi a concetti quali "il buon costume" e la "pubblica decenza" – vietava a chiunque, da un lato, di assumere atteggiamenti o indumenti tali da manifestare "l'intenzione di adescare o di esercitare l'attività di meretrice" e dall'altro, di contattare, anche solo verbalmente, o chiedere prestazioni a persone dedite all'attività di prostituzione, stabilendo una multa di 500 euro in caso di violazione.

I giudici del TAR del Lazio hanno annullato l'ordinanza e condannato il Comune alle spese per il ricorso sulla base di diverse motivazioni.

I giudici hanno ritenuto fondate anche le deduzioni delle associazioni ricorrenti che hanno contestato l'ordinanza perché incide su diritti e le libertà individuali, inoltre le sanzioni stabilite in misura fissa e generalizzata può colpire anche quelle persone che sono vittime della catena criminale della tratta e sfruttamento che potrebbero trovarsi in strada.



THE NETHERLANDS

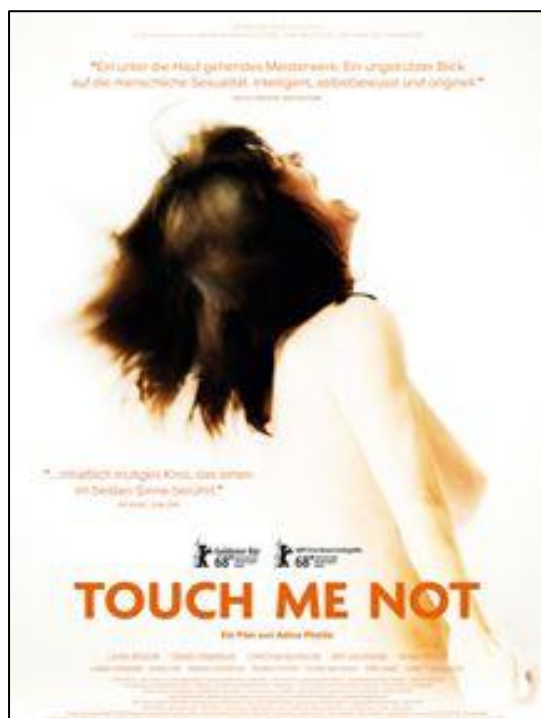
Films on sex work in Utrecht

On June 1st, eve of the **International Sex Workers Day**, PROUD, the Dutch Union for Sex Workers, will organize a film evening about sex work in the Filmcafé in Utrecht (CAB-Rondom 90A, 3534 BE Utrecht). An event for sex workers, allies and interested people, to draw attention to the position and rights of sex workers in the Netherlands.

The evening will start at 08.00 pm with a short film about PROUD and sex work in the Netherlands.

At 8.30 pm the documentary **CROSSING:**

Stories of Migrant Sex Workers of ICRSE, the *International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe* and SWARM, the *Sex Worker Advocacy and Resistance Movement*, will be shown in the Netherlands for the first time.



The film **TOUCH ME NOT** will then be shown at 9.30 pm. It talks about the limits of intimacy and paid sex, among other things. The film won the Golden Bear at the Berlin Film Festival 2018.

<https://crossingsmovie.org>

https://nl.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Touch_Me_Not

Launch of 'CROSSINGS' and various film screenings held by sex workers across Europe

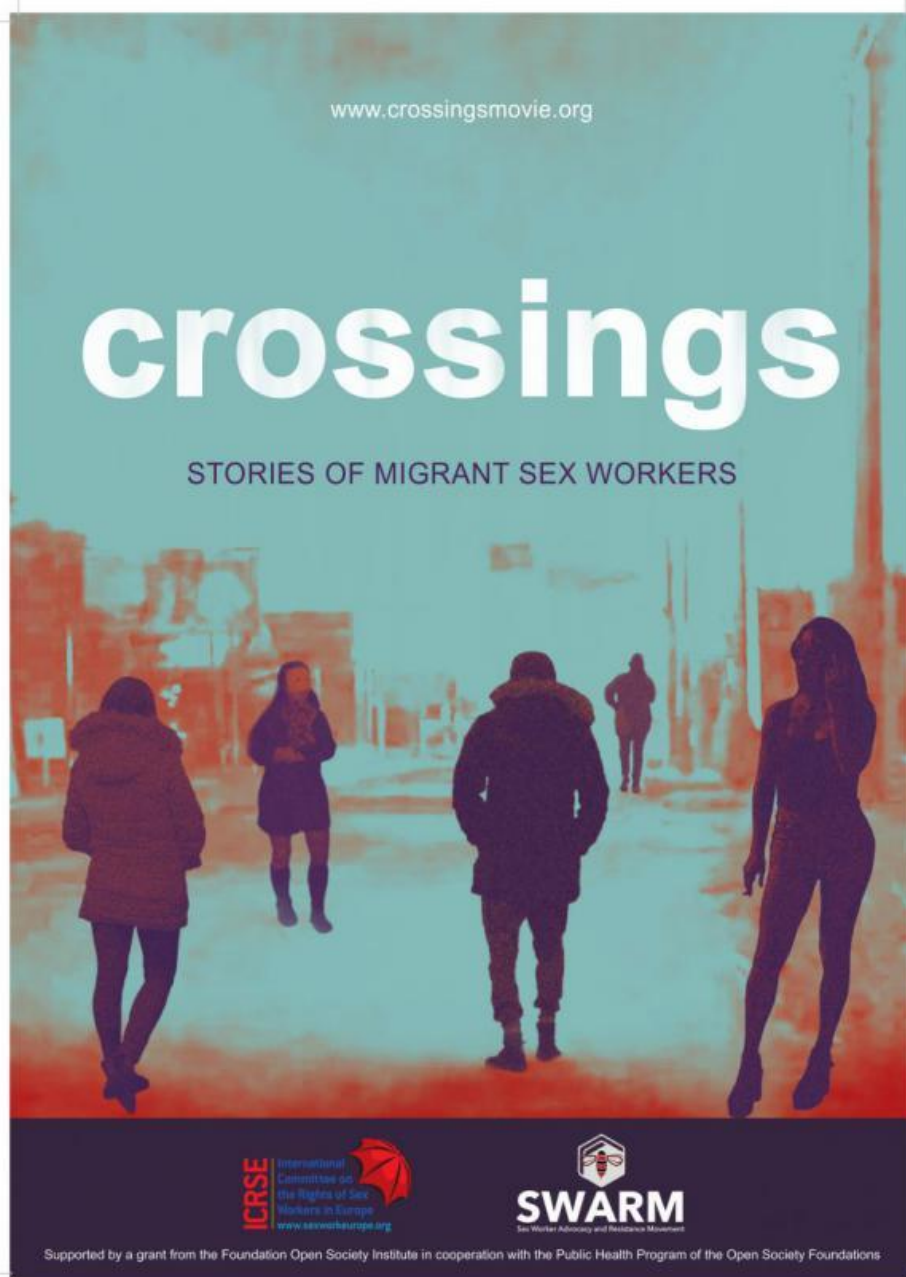
On **Zero Discrimination Day**, UNAIDS calls on countries to examine discriminatory provisions in their laws and policies and make positive changes to ensure equality, inclusion and protection.

To mark this day, the **International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe** (ICRSE) launched its new advocacy documentary

Crossings: Stories of Migrant Sex Workers

<http://crossingsmovie.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/304755920473139/>



Since its launch, sex workers across Europe have held screenings of the film and invited community members, allies, civil society organisations and policy makers to begin and expand dialogue, challenge the conflation of sex work and trafficking and jointly discuss and plan for meeting the actual and not perceived needs and demands of migrant sex workers.

The movie so far has been screened at the **SNAP Festival in Paris**, France, at a **Red Edition** community event on 17 December 2018 in **Vienna**, Austria and in **Brussels**, Belgium.

TAMPEP, LEFÖ, PiA and the Women's Group of Vienna's Green Party have organised a screening and panel discussion on the issues highlighted by the film on **June 5th 2019** in **Vienna**, Austria.

Thanks to

- **ICRSE**, International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe
- **SWARM**, Sex Worker Advocacy and Resistance Movement

CROSSINGS | Vienna

Film Screening & Panel Discussion

Wednesday, June 5th, 2019 | 6.30 pm

Admiral Kino, Burggasse 119, 1070 Wien

Event languages: German / English (whispered translation)

Registration under: crossings.anmeldung@gmail.com

The *Women's Group of Vienna's Green Party* invites to the film screening **CROSSINGS | Stories of migrant sex workers**. After the screening, there will be a panel discussion, including one of the protagonists of the film, covering current situations of migrant sex workers in Europe.

CROSSINGS is a collaborative documentary by sex workers' organizations in five European countries. It is a sex-worker produced documentary about the effects of criminalization on migrant sex workers in Europe and the powerful ways of their resistance.

The film tells the untold stories of five people from five European countries (Serbia, Macedonia, France, Spain, and Norway) who come from very diverse backgrounds but have something in common - all of them are migrants who sell sex. By sharing their experiences as women, men, migrants, LGBT people, single mothers, Muslims, Roma and sex workers, they challenge the sensationalist portrayal of all sex workers as "prostituted women" and "trafficking victims".

The documentary highlights common myths around sex work and preconceptions about sex workers. It does so by reflecting on the current trends sex workers - and other marginalized groups - face in Europe: increasing hostility to migrants and refugees, growing populism, cuts and austerity, and backlash against women's and LGBT rights. The movie offers a glimpse into how governments approach prostitution and migration: the lives of the five characters are harshly impacted by police control, detention, deportation, and imprisonment.

<http://crossingsmovie.org>

After the screening, we will have a panel discussion, featuring steering committee members of the European Network TAMPEP. TAMPEP was founded in 1993 in response to the needs of migrant sex workers across Europe. As a sex worker-led network, it unites sex worker groups and allies in building stronger partnerships to advocate for the rights of migrant and mobile sex workers in Europe.

Discussants

Sabrina Sanchez: Is one of the film's protagonists. She talks about the situation of migrant and mobile sex workers in Spain as well as the effects of abolitionist pressure on the living and working conditions of sex workers in Spain.

Christine Nagl: Has been working with migrant sex workers in German speaking countries for more than 15 years. She talks about the situation in Austria and about misbehaviors by state institutions in handling migrant sex workers.

Jaana Kauppinen: Is an Executive Director of Pro-tukipiste, which is an administrative hosting organization of TAMPEP. She talks about the situation of migrant and mobile sex workers in Nordic countries and about the effects of the Finnish law on the living and working conditions of sex workers.

Schedule

- Welcome: Barbara Huemer, MP, Women's Spokeswoman of Vienna's Green Party
- Film screening
- Panel discussion
- Snacks and drinks

Cooperation partners

- **TAMPEP**, the European Network for the Promotion of Rights and Health among Migrant Sex Workers
- **LEFÖ**, Counselling, Education and Support for Migrant Women
- **PiA**, Information and Counselling for Sex Workers
- **Women's Group of Vienna's Green Part**

DEUTSCH

CROSSINGS | Wien

Filmvorführung & Podiumsdiskussion

Mittwoch, 5. Juni 2019, Ab 18:30

Admiral Kino, Burggasse 119,
1070 Wien

Veranstaltungssprachen: Deutsch / Englisch (Mit Flüsterübersetzungen)

Anmeldungen unter: crossings.anmeldung@gmail.com

Die *Grüne Frauen Wien* laden herzlich zur Filmvorführung des Dokumentarfilms **CROSSINGS – Stories of migrant sex workers** und zur anschließenden Podiumsdiskussion mit einer der Protagonist*innen zur Situation von Sexarbeiter*innen in Europa ein.

CROSSINGS ist eine von Sexarbeiter*innen produzierte Dokumentation über die Auswirkungen von diskriminierenden Gesetzgebungen und Rechtspraktiken auf migrantische Sexarbeiter*innen in Europa und die kraftvollen Formen ihres Widerstands.

Der Film wurde von Sexarbeiter*innen Rechtsorganisationen aus fünf europäischen Ländern, namentlich Serbien, Mazedonien, Frankreich, Spanien und Norwegen, in den Jahren 2017 und 2018 gedreht und erzählt die Geschichten von fünf migrantischen Sexarbeiter*innen, die in diesen Ländern leben und arbeiten.

Die Protagonist*innen des Films kommen aus sehr verschiedenen Hintergründen, aber haben eines gemeinsam: Sie alle sind Migrant*innen, die Sex verkaufen. Indem sie ihre Erfahrungen als Frauen, Männer, Migrant*innen, LGBT-Personen, alleinerziehende Mütter, Muslim*innen, Roma und Sexarbeiter_innen teilen, widersprechen sie der sensationistischen Darstellung von allen Sexarbeitenden als "prostituierte Frauen" und "Opfer von Menschenhandel".

<http://crossingsmovie.org>



Auf die Filmvorführung folgt eine Podiumsdiskussion, bestehend aus Vertreter*innen des europäischen Netzwerks TAMPEP. TAMPEP wurde 1993 in Reaktion auf die Bedürfnisse von migrantischen Sexarbeiter*innen in Europa gegründet. Als Netzwerk, das von Sexarbeiter*innen geführt wird, verbindet es Sexarbeiter*innen Organisationen und Verbündete für den Aufbau stärkerer Allianzen, um die Rechte von mobilen und migrantischen Sexarbeiter*innen in Europa zu stärken.

Diskutant*innen

Sabrina Sanchez: Ist eine der Protagonist*innen des Films. Sie spricht über die Situation der Sexarbeiter*innen in Spanien sowie über die Auswirkungen des zunehmenden Druckes aus abolitionistischer Seite.

Christine Nagl: Arbeitet seit über 15 Jahren mit migrantischen Sexarbeiter*innen im deutschsprachigen Raum und redet über Missstände im Umgang staatlicher Institutionen mit Sexarbeiter*innen

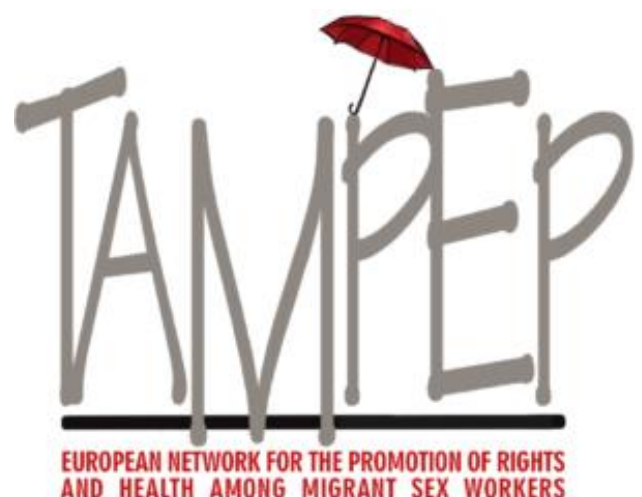
Jaana Kauppinen: Ist eine der Geschäftsführer*innen von Pro-tukipiste, einer administrativen Hosting-Organisation von TAMPEP. Sie spricht über die Situation mobiler und migrantischer Sexarbeiter*innen in nordischen Staaten sowie über die Effekte des finnischen Gesetzes auf die Lebens- und Arbeitssituation von Sexarbeiter*innen.

Ablauf

- Begrüßung: Landtagsabgeordnete Barbara Huemer, Frauensprecherin Grüne Wien
- Filmvorführung
- Podiumsdiskussion
- Snacks und Getränke

Kooperationspartner*innen

- **TAMPEP**, the European Network for the Promotion of Rights and Health among Migrant Sex Workers
- **LEFÖ**, Beratung, Bildung und Begleitung für Migrantinnen
- **PiA**, Information und Beratung für Sexarbeiterinnen
- **Grüne Frauen Wien**



**On the International Sex Workers' Day 2019,
TAMPEP wishes to thank all contributors to this newsletter and in solidarity
with all sex worker organisations and individuals,
we will continue the fight for sex workers' rights to be upheld!**